CLAIMS

Subor 1. A video signal processing system for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce a displayed image, the video processing system

5 having a supervisor control system which permits a supervisor to enter ratings, spending, and/or time limits, which permits the supervisor to temporarily modify the limits by entering an override comprising one or more revised ratings, spending, view time limit, or specifically permitted program, which stores recently completed overrides, which stores completed overrides in memory, and which allows stored overrides to be recalled.

10 2. System according to claim 1 which displays a list of stored completed overrides and permits the supervisor to create a new temporary override by modification of the selected, previously used override.

3. System according to claim 1 which displays a list of currently active temporary overrides, including the corresponding time periods, and completed overrides.

15 4. System to control viewing or recording of television programs according to ratings, spending, and/or viewing time limits defined by a supervisor, wherein the supervisor can elect to temporarily modify the limits according to an override comprising different limits, and wherein the system stores expired overrides and causes them to be displayable for future selection by a supervisor.

20 5. System according to claim 4 further wherein the supervisor can name sets of override parameters and select the expired sets of override parameters from a list which includes the names.

6. Method for blocking viewing or recording of television programs which are outside a range selected by a supervisor comprising (A) receiving ratings, spending, and/or view

25 time limits from a supervisor, (B) receiving one or more overrides from a supervisor which specify one or more permitted television programs, one or more permitted channels to be unblocked for one or more specific time periods, modified view time limits, or a revised ratings range for one or more specific time periods, and (C) upon expiration of the time period for an override, storing the override for later recall.

7. Method according to claim 6 wherein the previously used overrides are displayed in a list of active and expired overrides, and expired overrides can be selected and modified with respect to time period by the supervisor.

Sub a3

8. A microprocessor which is programmed to normally block viewing of programs or recordings outside ratings and/or other limits entered by a supervisor, to permit or block viewing of programs according to temporary override(s) instructions entered by the supervisor, and which stores sets of expired temporary override instructions and displays the sets for reuse by the supervisor.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein a given number of the most recently expired sets of temporary overrides are automatically stored.

10. Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the number is ten.

11. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the sets are displayed when the supervisor responds to on-screen display menu prompts and enters an override routine.

12. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein displayed sets of currently active overrides and expired overrides are displayed in a single on-screen display list.

13. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the supervisor has the option of automatically sorting the single on-screen display list according to status or according to expiration time.

Add a4